

Dear Neighbors,

The Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods continues to look for ways to bring Metro Government and it’s citizenry together. Over the past four years the programs we have offered have focused on improving the quality of life in Nashville’s neighborhoods through a more informed, active and involved citizenry and an enhanced governmental response to community needs. We have been able to do this through our various programs. Now we want to introduce something new to you. It is not so much a program as it is a way for us to communicate and offer even more assistance.

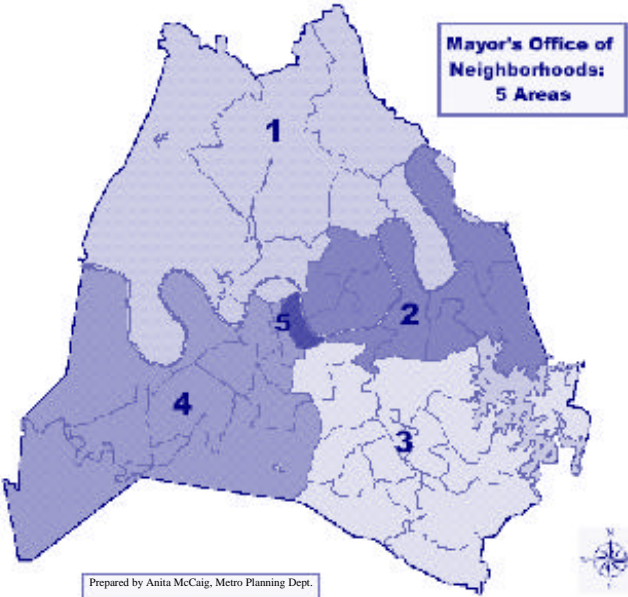
The Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods is made up of 5 people, three Neighborhood Liaisons, Gabi Coto, Erin Williams and Monica Clayton; Deputy Director, Billy Fields and the Director. With this number of people, we are unable to cover the 533 square miles of Davidson County. Because of this, we have divided the county into five zones with each liaison responsible for a zone. Erin is responsible for most

of the northern part of the county; Billy is responsible for the eastern section; Gabi, the southern part; Monica, west; and myself, the inner loop.

Although we are just beginning, we’ve made it our goal to try to know just about everything going on within our zones. So look at the map and familiarize yourself with which area you fall in and give us a call when there are issues or concerns your neighborhood is facing. We also want to attend your neighborhood meetings, which is part of the reason we updated the database this year. So if you have not sent in your information, please do that soon. Get to know the neighborhood liaison assigned to your area. If you are uncertain as to where your neighborhood falls, please don’t hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cummings Steele
Michelle Cummings Steele
Director



Neighborhood Happenings

Neighborhood Strength Training: Partnering With The Police

March 11, 2004 6PM-8PM

The ABCs of Metro Public Health Department

March 9, 2004 6PM-8PM

Sure Steps to Safer Streets

March 23, 2004 6PM-8PM
April 24, 2004 10AM-12PM

13th Annual Multiple Sclerosis Walk

Edwin Warner Park
April 3, 2004 10:30AM

Let’s Keep It Clean

April 5, 2004 6PM-8PM
April 26, 2004 6PM-8PM

Celebration of Cultures

Scarritt-Bennett Center
May 9-10, 2004

Earth Day 2004

Centennial Park
April 17, 2004 12PM-7PM

More than 10,000 are expected to gather at Centennial Park to celebrate our world at Earth Day.

A free, citywide event will celebrate the environment and diversity with an estimated 60 exhibitors scheduled to be on hand to raise awareness. Interactive exhibits designed with children in mind will offer challenges to adults as well. Speakers will offer special insight into various aspects of environmental issues.

In addition to the educational opportunities, a wide variety of music will fill the park along with food from many local Nashville restaurants.

For more information call 862-6047 or to volunteer, call 687-7074.

CELEBRATING NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE

On November 22, 2003, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods hosted its third annual conference at the Nashville Convention Center. The conference theme was “Celebrating *Healthy* Neighborhoods” and was designated as a Healthy Nashville 2010 event.

The conference featured a series of workshops and general sessions designed to provide attendees with the skills and understanding necessary to foster good health in their neighborhoods. Experts from key departments were on hand to discuss issues that impact neighborhoods such as the N.O.T.I.C.E. program, crime prevention and reduction, clean air and water, the benefits of small business and building partnerships with youth.

During the opening session, Silvia Castaneda, health reporter for WKRN, Channel 2, introduced the morning panel: Councilman David Briley; Councilwoman Diane Neighbors; Reverend Enoch Fuzz, pastor of Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church; Dr. Roxanne Spitzer, Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Nashville Hospital Authority; Bart Perkey, director of the Bureau of Health Equality at Metro Public Health Department; and Susan Cooper, Administrative Director for Faculty Practice at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Following

introductions, Ms. Castaneda facilitated a panel discussion on the commitment to the improvement of Nashville’s health. Conference attendees were also given an opportunity to ask the panelists questions about specific concerns.

Dr. Stephanie Bailey, M.D., M.S.H.S.A., keynote speaker for the neighborhood conference, delivered a powerful speech to conference participants about the disparities in health among Nashville’s citizens. Dr. Bailey is Director of the Metropolitan Nashville Public Health Department, overseeing 600 employees and an annual budget of \$40,000,000. She is also the current Acting Director for the Division of Public Health Practice at Meharry Medical College.

At an awards ceremony later in the day, twenty-four neighborhood organizations were awarded community enhancement grants for enhancement, organizing and planning projects previously applied for under the Community Enhancements Grants program of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods. Cathie Dodd of Woodbine Community Org. was honored with the Vanguard Award for her continued work in the neighborhood movement. Jack Irby of Brook View Estates Homeowners Assoc. was honored as “Neighbor of the Year” because of his community activism.



- Acklen Park Neighborhood Organization
- Bluefields Home Owners Association
- Castlegate Civic Club
- Cherokee Park Neighborhood Assoc.
- Chesapeake Home Owners Assoc.
- Cleveland Park Neighborhood Assoc.
- Jefferson St. United Merchants Partnership
- Maxwell Area Neighborhood Assoc.
- Montague Neighborhood Assoc.
- Montrose Neighborhood Alliance
- Mulberry Downs Home Owners Assoc.
- Neighbors Reaching Out
- Oakland Acres Neighborhood Assoc.
- Organized Neighbors of Edgehill
- RENRAW
- Riverwood Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.
- Rolling Acres Neighbors Inc.
- Stanford Estates Home Owners Assoc.
- Sylvan Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
- Thompson Lane Murfreesboro Action Group
- Thousand Oaks Estates Neighborhood Assoc.
- Trinity Hills Neighborhood Assoc.
- Whites Creek Preservation Society
- Woodland in Waverly Neighborhood Assoc.

Signage	\$4140
Signage	\$4856.75
Walking Trail	\$1100
Signage	\$4817.93
Security Lighting	\$4298.50
Security Lighting	\$5000
Festival	\$5000
Directory of Homes	\$1325
Signage	\$5000
Neighborhood Tour	\$4998
Playground Renovation	\$897.23
Newsletter and Festival	\$4000
Signage	\$5000
Tool Lending Library	\$4957.55
Festival	\$5000
Driving Tour and Festival	\$3200
Signage	\$4227.10
Signage	\$3681.94
Community Garden	\$4500
Festival and Fliers	\$4400
Signage	\$5000
Sign Restoration	\$4700
Walking Trail and Signage	\$4900
Signage	\$5000



Bill Purcell, Mayor

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INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF RONAL SERPAS CONTINUED

mechanisms of neighborhoods, schools, religious institutions, economies, etc., are the “glue” that provides long-term safety and prosperity. As the police force regains order in areas, it is these social institutions that have the opportunity to “reclaim” their neighborhoods and ensure permanent safety. The bottom line is this: criminal behavior cannot exist in the direct presence of police, but criminal behavior is eliminated when it cannot exist in a neighborhood that has reclaimed its territory!

We are very excited about the opening of the North Nashville Precinct. In addition to a greater police presence, how will this new precinct benefit North Nashville’s neighborhoods?

A police precinct is a place that can bring people together, a place that neighborhoods call their “own.” By housing a precinct in the north, the city and its leaders have reaffirmed the

uniqueness of these neighborhoods and families. It is this “identity” that we believe will help officers forge stronger relationships within the areas they serve. The new North Precinct also demonstrates the clear and continuing support that Mayor Purcell, his Administration, and Council have given to the police department and the community. One of the things that intrigued me about the opportunity to become the Chief of Police was the demonstrated and continuing support of Mayor Purcell and his Administration for the department and the citizens of Nashville.

Lastly, what is the greatest, single thing citizens can do to prevent crime in their neighborhoods?

BE INVOLVED. The police can never, and will never, successfully police a community or neighborhood in a vacuum. We want our officers to

remove from neighborhoods those persons who prey on the weak or the helpless. We know in our business that the majority, if not all, of the persons who cause the most trouble, and who hold people hostage in their own homes, DO NOT LIVE IN THE AREA WHERE THEY COMMIT THEIR CRIMINAL ACTS. The police have to have the community’s help in identifying who are the people who live there, and who are the people who do not. We need information, and will take it in person or ANONYMOUSLY. Remember this, what may seem to be an insignificant piece of information to one person, could be the final “clue” that we need to solve a huge problem. I encourage all citizens to use our Crime Stoppers tip line (74-CRIME), the narcotics tip line 244-DOPE, the Gang HotLine - 862-GANG, and the Guns-in-Schools HotLine - 557-A-GUN



Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

ON Nashville!

Issue 8

March 2004

An interview with the new Nashville Police Chief, Ronal Serpas

How are you and your family adjusting to life in Music City?

We are very excited about the future and becoming a part of the Music City. My daughter is a freshman in high school, and we have decided to let her finish her year [in Washington]. That actually gives us more time to find the school that best suits her, and the neighborhood in which we will live. Jill and Allie will be spending one week periods here several times between now and June, and I go to Washington about once a month. We have been met with such great hospitality and acceptance!

We know that prior to coming to Nashville you served as Chief of the Washington State Patrol as well as the Assistant Superintendent of Police and the 1st Chief of Operations of the New Orleans Police Dept. In your 23 years of law enforcement, what do you believe to be your greatest accomplishment?

In both departments we drove success in service by holding ourselves relentlessly accountable to “making a difference every day.” In both departments we dramatically reduced criminal events, but more importantly in both departments we saw dramatic decreases in citizen’s complaints of police misconduct. Professional police officers can do their job, in concert with communities, in a fashion that does not cause an increase in complaints. We also witnessed dramatic increases in citizen’s satisfaction with service delivery. Most important, our communities felt safer where they lived, played, attended school, etc.

What are some positive facts citizens may be surprised to know about the Police Department?

I have found a truly dedicated work force of sworn and professional civilian support staff who are up to the challenge of working every day to make Nashville the Safest Big City in America – while I don’t think the citizens of Nashville would be surprised by that, it should be said. What may surprise the citizens is the depth of commitment I have already witnessed and their depth of compassion to do the right thing for victims of crimes, their families, and others. We are beginning to accept the concept that citizens, to a police department, are not customers. Customers can choose between Wal-Mart or Kroger – citizens of Nashville cannot choose their police department. It is the depth of commitment to making a difference every day that is so tremendous in this department.

We’ve heard you say several times that your goal is to make Nashville, “the safest big city in America.” How will MNPD achieve this goal?

By working, EVERY DAY, to make a difference in the lives of Nashville’s friends, families, children, and guests. We will relentlessly focus our efforts on problem solving with communities to provide relief from Crime and Quality of Life issues. Our friends and families should not be held hostage in their homes because of Quality of Life complaints (drug dealing, public drunkenness, abandoned cars and homes, vice crimes such as prostitution and gambling, etc.). Our friends and families

should be able to travel the roadways without being assaulted or intimidated by dangerous or aggressive drivers. Our friends, families, children, and guests should expect a competent and thorough investigation when a crime occurs. Criminals who are wanted by the law for Arrest Warrants SHOULD be found and brought to justice. It has been reported by many in the Social Science field that 10% of criminals may be responsible for as much as 50% of all crime; my 23 years of law enforcement experience tells me the same thing. If we focus on Quality of Life Issues and Crime Fighting through the collaborative partnerships of Community Policing, all three held together by a relentless strategy of weekly accountability meetings, we CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER!

We’ve also heard you state the importance of forming strong partnerships with Nashville’s citizens. How can neighborhoods better partner with the Police as they seek to make their communities safer?

Our neighborhoods are the fabric that holds our city together; they bind us in a common purpose with a common desire for the best Quality of Life we can experience. We believe our Precinct Commanders should be the point of contact and partnership between all our neighborhoods and communities. By forging partnerships together, our Commanders and neighborhoods can prioritize the delivery of police service. We know that the police can provide a valuable service to provide safety. But we also know that the social control

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